

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been amended to better define the claimed invention. New claims 13-18 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. The amended/new claims find solid support in the application as filed, especially Fig. 5 and the corresponding text in the original specification. The Abstract has been revised to comply with commonly accepted US patent practice. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The art rejections primarily relying on *Park* (KR 10-0292089) are noted. The reference corresponds to KR 2000-000244 cited as D1 in the International Search Report of the PCT parent of the instant application. Therefore, the reference is believed patentably distinguishable from the present invention as correctly held by the International Examining Authority in its International Preliminary Examination Report.

As to independent claim 1, *Park* does not fairly teach or suggest the call-originating exchanger requesting a trunk connection to both the call-terminating exchanger and the sound providing means. This original limitation has been clarified to emphasize that two separate trunk connections are requested by the call-originating exchanger. This feature finds support in at least FIG. 5 of the application as filed, at S506 and S507. In *Park*, as best seen in FIG. 3, although there are also two trunk connection requests at S1400 and S1900, the trunk connections are not requested by the same element, i.e., call-originating exchanger 200. Rather, one of the trunk connections (S1900) is requested by call-terminating exchanger 400.

Further, *Park* does not fairly teach or suggest the HLR furnishing a call-originating

exchanger with information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for a called terminal. In *Park*, HLR 300 (Fig. 3) furnishes no such information to call-originating exchanger 200. The information is stored and handled by another part of the *Park* system, i.e., call-terminating exchanger 400. *See*, for example, *Park* at page 18, lines 14-18 and page 14, lines 7-8.

The deficiencies of *Park* are not deemed curable by the teaching reference(s), and therefore independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied art of record.

Claims 2-18 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable at least for the reasons advanced with respect to claim 1. The dependent claims are also patentable on their own merits since these claims recite other features neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, as to claims 13-16, the applied references do not fairly teach or suggest the claimed sound code found by and returned from the storage controller. As disclosed at S1500 in Fig. 3 of *Park*, the call-terminating exchanger 400 searches for a replacement tone or sound, rather than a sound code. *See*, for example, *Park* at page 19, lines 5, 13.

As to claim 17, the applied references do not fairly teach or suggest that the response returned from the HLR to the call-originating exchanger includes not only said first and second information but also routing information furnished by the call-terminating exchanger. By combining the RBT replacement subscription information in the same message with the routing information, the number of required messages can be greatly reduced which is not deemed achievable in *Park*.

As to claim 18, the applied references do not fairly teach or suggest that the HLR maintaining, for each subscriber, a profile that includes information on whether or not an RBT is to be replaced for the subscriber when called. As note above, *Park* at page 18, lines 14-18 and page 14, lines 7-8 requires that any such information/profile be maintained at the called switching system, i.e., call-terminating exchanger 400. The reference effectively teaches away from the

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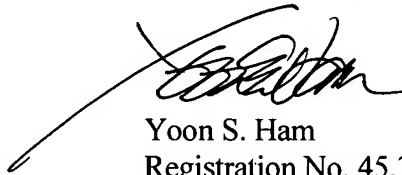
claimed arrangement.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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